

2-SA-ER

April 7, 1975

Inspection of Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service Company, Logan Township, New Jersey

## File

At 1:00 p.m. on 1 April 1975, Bill Librizzi received a phone call from the U. S. Coast Guard COTP, Philadelphia, reporting that a telephone report had just been received from a Mr. Swidell who stated that oil was leaking from the oil lagoon into one of the adjacent clean lakes. The Coast Guard stated that the telephone company had been installing new poles and had punched a hole in the road, running between the oil lagoon and the clean lake. This hole began seeping oil from the lagoon, which then flowed into the lake at approximately 100 gallons/day. The Coast Guard wanted to know what action we would take. After calling the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection (NJSDPE), it was arranged that we would meet with the Coast Guard and the NJSDPE at Bridgeport at 4:00 p.m. to evaluate the spill.

Bill Librizzi and I arrived on scene at 3:40 p.m. and went to the spill site. A dirt road ran between the oil lagoon and the lake. This road was above the level of both the oil lagoon and the lake. The oil lagoon level was about 6-8 feet higher than the lake level. A hole had been dug in the lake shoreline about one foot from the water. Oil had slowly filled the hole and was seeping out of the hole into the lake. Approximately 10-15 gallons of oil was in the lake. A section of Coastal Services oil boom had been installed at the point of seepage and was containing 100 percent of the oil getting into the lake. Approximately 25-30 yards of shoreline around the point of oil seepage appeared wet with oil. In this area, several small holes were dug. These also filled with oil indicating that the entire area was oil saturated. Samples were taken of the oil in the lagoon, the oil that seeped into the holes dug into the shoreline, and the oil in the lake.

By this time, representatives from the Coast Guard and the NJSDPE were on scene. After the samples were taken, we began to walk around the lake. There was evidence at the western end of the oil lagoon where the swampy area of Little Timber Creek lies next to the lagoon that oil had escaped into the swampy area. Scott McCone, the NJSDPE representative, indicated that a survey of the swamp area had been conducted by air and by land and that anywhere from 100,000 to 3,000,000 gallons of oil had spilled from the oil lagoon and was trapped in the swamp. The Coast Guard estimated that 5,000 to 10,000 gallons were

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## CONCURRENCES

SYMBOL	SA/ERB	SA/ERB	SA/ERB					
SURNAME	PRICE	ELLIS	LIBRIZZI					
DATE								

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located within the swamp. The figures varied so widely because the depth of the oil throughout the swamp had not been determined. During our superficial survey from the edge of the swamp, only scattered patches of floating oil were visible. However, oil stains on roots were universally evident with a large portion of the swamp dead or dying.

We then went to speak with the owners of the facility. Mr. Denecola, the facility operator, was still at the facility but both owners had left. Attempts to reach them to ask them to return for a meeting were unsuccessful. We then told Mr. Denecola about the seepage and he indicated that he would clean up the oil in the water tomorrow. Mr. Librizzi asked that one of the owners call him at 8:30 a.m. on April 2. We left the facility at 5:45 p.m.

At 6:15 p.m. we arrived at the Coastal Services office in Paulsboro to talk with Mark Shipps, the Coastal Services office manager, on the survey of the Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service Company facility he had made. He was not in, but Mr. Swindell, the owner of the land (including a portion of the pond being effected by the seepage) near the Bridgeport facility and the man who had asked Coastal Services to install the boom, was in the office. Bill Librizzi discussed the situation with him. He indicated that the two lakes located north and east of the oil lagoon were interconnected and that the lake to the north of the lagoon was connected with Little Timber Creek. He also indicated that there is no inflow of water to the pond.

At 6:40 p.m. we left Coastal Services after leaving a message for Mark Shipps to call Bill Librizzi early on April 2.

At 8:00 p.m. we arrived at the Edison office.

Clark K. Price  
Pollution Spills Investigator  
Emergency Response Section

**RECORD OF  
COMMUNICATION**☒ PHONE CALL    ☐ DISCUSSION    ☐ FIELD TRIP    ☐ CONFERENCE  
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

(Record of item checked above)

TO:  File	FROM:  William Librizzi	DATE April 2, 1975
		TIME 8:30 a.m.

SUBJECT    T/C with Dominick and Eli Borreli (609-423-5500, 609-467-1551) regarding  
Bridgeport Rental and Service Company, Bridgeport, New Jersey

**SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION**

The Borreli's were calling in follow-up to our April 1 visit to investigate an oil spill from their lagoon into an adjacent pond. I explained to the Borreli's that oil has escaped from their lagoon into the pond. I indicated that there was positive evidence that portions of the ground along the pond is saturated with oil and that samples were taken and should confirm this. Mr. Borreli did not fully agree with our conclusions but indicated that they have an engineer scheduled to inspect the facility next Saturday. The primary purpose of the engineer's visit is to prepare the SPCC Plan required for the facility. I told Mr. Borreli to have the engineer look at this problem of seepage.

We then generally discussed the lagoon problem and the significance of a dike failure. Mr. Borreli indicated that they, since buying the property five years ago, have had several studies made regarding disposal and the State has disapproved each study. He did indicate that during the summer when temperatures are high portions of the oil in the lagoon are removed. I told Mr. Borreli that we would get together in the future to discuss the SPCC Plan. I also advised him that he should take steps to remove the oil spilled in the pond. He said he would do so.

**CONCLUSIONS, ACTION TAKEN OR REQUIRED****INFORMATION COPIES****TO:**

2-SA-ER

April 1, 1975

Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service Co., SPCC, Cedar Swamp Oil Spill

William Librizzi, Chief  
Emergency Response & Inspection Branch

- Conclusions:
1. An oil spill has occurred in Cedar Swamp, Logan Township, New Jersey.
  2. Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service Company is in violation of Part 112 for failing to have an SPCC Plan.
  3. Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service Company, apart from not having an SPCC Plan, has visibly shown little concern for oil pollution prevention.

Recommended Position of EPA:

1. A fine of \$1,000 per day be levied against Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service Company beginning on July 12, 1974 and ending on the day they apply for a time extension for a minimal number of 262 days or \$262,000 for failure to prepare an SPCC Plan. This fine should then be used to force Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service Company, Inc. to institute several basic oil spill prevention provisions, such as:

(a) Cleanup the area of old leaking 55 gallon drums, trash, etc.

(b) Dike all tanks containing oil. The dikes should be shown to be impervious.

(c) Pump out the lagoon to the extent possible and place the old waste oil into empty fuel tanks. These tanks should then be diked.

(d) Possibly boom the Little Timber Creek to keep oil from leaching out of the swamp area.

2. Additional investigation be made to determine if oil is leaching into Cedar Swamp. If oil contained in the oil lake or sands adjoining the oil lake, located on the Bridgeport property, is leaching into the Swamp, the full penalty provisions of Section 311(b)(5) and (b)(6) be sought.

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3. A surveillance be made of the oil now present in Cedar Swamp. If the situation shows signs of deterioration, cooperative action with the U. S. Coast Guard be instituted.

4. The State of New Jersey should be encouraged to use their authority to remedy the oil pollution situation, as New Jersey has been aware of the problem for some years.

Position of the Coast Guard (as presented by Lt. Thompson):

1. The Coast Guard is not anxious to jump head on into the spill because of the history of the spilled oil and the amount of money that would be required to cleanup Cedar Swamp.

2. They are, at this point, anxious for and respectful of our counsel because of the complexity of the situation.

3. They are somewhat resentful of being pulled in at the tail end of a spill episode, as New Jersey State investigations have been in progress for some time.

Introduction:

On March 25, 1975, Lt. Ed Thompson of the U. S. Coast Guard, Base Gloucester, contacted this office concerning oil in Cedar Swamp. This oil was thought to be associated with the operation of the Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service Company, Inc. facility located adjacent to Cedar Swamp.

Lt. Thompson advised that Mr. John Vernam of the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection had been in his office on Tuesday, March 25 and had requested the Coast Guard to use contingency funds in conjunction with State funds to cleanup oil in the marshland.

The problem is complex and Lt. Thompson has some misgivings about the employment of the fund. He also had questions about whether this was EPA or Coast Guard waters and, therefore, he sought our counsel.

After discussion with Mr. Librizzi, a meeting with the Coast Guard was arranged for 1000 hours, Thursday, March 27, 1975.

Description of the Problem

The Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service owns an oil storage facility located at the intersection of Cedar Swamp Road and U.S. Route 130 (tax map of Logan Township, Gloucester County, N.J., Plate 14, Block 59).

The total area of the facility is about 28.9 acres consisting of what appears to be a highly permeable sandy soil. On this property there is an 11.8 acre oil lake and tank oil storage facilities. A more comprehensive description of the facility will be found in the section of this report dealing with the SPCC inspection.

Some time in the past, or currently through a leaching problem, oil has entered in some quantity into Cedar Swamp (see Map 1). Because of the inaccessibility of the swamp land, an estimate of the amount of oil, some of which appeared highly weathered, was not made but it could easily be in the thousands of gallons.

Lower Cedar Swamp is naturally drained by Little Timber Creek. This Creek flows through the swamp north under Route 130 then under Route 44 into the main body of Cedar Swamp. Cedar Swamp natural surface water movement would be by sheet flow into Repaupo Creek and Klondike Ditch. Oil drained from Cedar Swamp would have to pass through the natural vegetative areas to reach the flowing waterways which connect with the Delaware River.

The American Dredging Company, which we suspect owns the land area north of Route 44 (the major Cedar Swamp area), is in the process of extending Klondike Ditch and installing approximately 2 ft. diameter pipes in conjunction with the ditch extension. Piping has also been installed, advises the Coast Guard from Cedar Swamp into Repaupo Creek.

The net result of this dredging and pipe installation is that water flows into the Delaware River from the swamp area is facilitated. Oil now contained in the swamp area south of Route 130 would be carried out with the increased flow and decreased vegetative interference into the Delaware River.

There is no question in our minds that Cedar Swamp is a navigable water of the United States, and an oil spill into these waters has already occurred. Any large new spill of oil such as could result from the Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service Company lagoon would create a highly visible spill situation. Today, oil in minimal harmful quantities is being observed in the riverlet system at various locations, locations most probably varying with water level, flow and weather conditions.

Alerted to this imminent and substantial oil pollution threat, we conducted an SPCC compliance inspection of the Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service Company, Inc.

#### SPCC Inspection:

At 12:05 p.m. we arrived at Bridgeport Rental and Oil Service Co., Inc. The facility operator, Mr. Decola, was there. When we told

Mr. Decola that we were from the Federal EPA, presented our credentials, and told him that we were there to inspect the facility for compliance with the SPCC Regulation. Mr. Decola called the two owners, Mr. Dominic Bovielli and Mr. Eli Bovielli. Before they arrived, I asked Mr. Decola what the storage capacity of the tanks he had at the facility was. He indicated that there was approximately 4,000,000 gallons of storage capacity in the following tanks:

- 1-750,000 gallon tank
- 5-300,000 gallon tanks
- 1-500,000 gallon tank
- 2-250,000 gallon tanks
- 2-100,000 gallon tanks
- 3- 80,000 gallon tanks
- 6- 60,000 gallon tanks
- 4- 20,000 gallon tanks
- 13- 10,000 gallon tanks
- miscellaneous small tanks - 200,000 gallon capacity

All the tanks are located above ground. He had the following amount of oil or hazardous materials stored in a portion of the above ground tanks:

- 900,000 gallons of #2 fuel oil - Allied Chemical
- 60,000 gallons of #5 fuel oil - use themselves
- 10,000 gallons of motor oil - use themselves
- 900,000 gallons of unknown chemical - Allied Chemical

Mr. Decola indicated that the facility, at this time, was serving only to store oil and chemicals for other firms and was not engaged in a manufacturing process itself. When Mr. Dominic Bovielli and Mr. Eli Bovielli arrived, I asked if they had a copy of the SPCC Plan that I could review. They indicated that they were unaware of these regulations and their requirements. Mike Polito and I then gave them a copy of the regulations and briefly explained the regulatory requirements.

At this point, Mr. Bovielli began explaining the history of the facility. Mr. Bovielli stated that, approximately five years ago, they acquired the facility. At that time, all the oil storage tanks were installed and a large 11.8 acre waste oil lagoon was located in the back of the oil storage tanks (see Map #2). Mr. Bovielli indicated that oil had been spilling from this lagoon before they acquired the property and as soon as they became owners they took steps to build adequate dikes around the lagoon to stop this spillage. Mr. Bovielli stated that no oil was seeping from the lagoon at this time and that all the oil in the swamp now got in before they bought the property. Mr. Bovielli then indicated that, as he had no need for the waste oil in the lagoon, he had gone to the NJSDEP about five years ago to attempt to determine what action could be taken. He complained that, to date, he had received little assistance and conflicting advice.

I told Mr. Boviell that the SPCC Plan was definitely required for his oil storage tanks and that as long as the oil lagoon remained it would have to be discussed in the SPCC Plan, as well.

We then went to inspect the facility. The five 300,000 gallon tanks to the west of the office building (see Map #2) were diked with loose heaps of dirt evidently pushed up around these tanks by a bulldozer. The dike looked much too weak to hold 300,000 gallons of liquid, if one of the tanks were to completely fail. These tanks held the majority of the oil (#2 fuel) and the chemicals. The other tanks were not diked at all. The tanks were rusting badly as were the pipelines between the tanks. Old 55 gallon drums were discarded throughout the area and some were leaking oil into the ground. The general impression given by the tank farm area was of neglect and overall poor condition. We then inspected the lagoon area. Mr. Boviell indicated that oil in the lagoon was approximately one foot deep over varying depths of water. The maximum lagoon depth was 6-7 feet. The lagoon walls were constructed of loose fill which consisted primarily of sand. The level of the oil in the lagoon was generally higher than the surrounding ground level (see diagram #3) creating a hydrostatic head that would tend to promote seepage through the permeable dike walls. The natural slope of the ground is to the southeast towards Little Timber Creek and two lakes located just south of the oil lagoon (see Map #1). If the lagoon walls were to fail the oil would flow immediately into these two areas. Given the reported one foot depth for the oil, the lagoon holds approximately 3,800,000 gallons of waste oil sludge. There is sufficient slope that in the event of a dike break flow into the swamp area surrounding Little Timber Creek or into the lakes would be very rapid.

We walked entirely around the lagoon walls and saw several areas where slow seepage through the dike walls is apparently taking place. Mr. Boviell denied that it was seepage from the lagoon stating that the oil had come from various other sources all unrelated to his company.

Following the inspection, Mr. Boviell was told that he was in violation of 40 CFR 112 for not yet having prepared and implemented an SPCC Plan. He indicated that he would contact a Professional Engineer and begin working on the Plan.

Clark K. Price  
Pollution Spills Investigator  
Emergency Response Section

Michael V. Polito  
Hazardous Materials Consultant  
Emergency Response & Inspection Branch